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## ART NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD

Paris—always in the vanguard of art movements—uses interesting and rather original methods to obtain her ends.

She puts a premium upon good buildings by offering, annually, prizes for the ~~six~~ best façades erected within the twelve months, remitting for a year the owner's taxes and delivering to each architect a medal; and this summer, to further improve the external appearance of the city, she has offered prizes and medals for the balconies which by an expert jury are declared to be most artistically decorated with flowers and growing plants. Every Parisian apartment has its private balcony, and last year a few of these were so effectively decorated by an art society that the city became aware of their latent possibilities and determined in this way to obtain the co-operation of the people. The jury to make the awards at the conclusion of the season is composed of well-known architects and artists—among whom, by the way, may be named the great painter Besnard. The scheme is one which should commend itself to other municipalities.

✱ Jean Jacques Henner, the painter, died in Paris on July 23d, at the age of seventy-six years. He was



TEMPLE DOOR  
Japanese Lacques and Carved Work  
Courtesy of Yamanaka & Co., New York

born at Bermviller, Alsace, March 5, 1829, and was educated at the École des Beaux Arts. He was made a knight of the Legion of Honor in 1873, and received the successive grades of distinction in that member-

ship as follows: Officer in 1878, commander in 1898, and grand officer in 1903. He was made a member of the Institut de France in 1889. M. Henner was, first of all, a painter. Afterward he was a patriot, and his "Alsace in Mourning" is an expression of the sentiment of that province over its conquest and annexation by the Germans. He was an enthusiast in every detail of his art. More than most others, he was a painter of women, and his studies in the nude will long be the model of artists.

✿ Theodore Davis possesses in Rembrandt's "Sybil" one of the master's greatest works, and the Czar owns none excelling it. It was the property of the Grand Duke of Leuchtenberg, the Czar's first cousin, and remained in the Duke's gallery many years. M. Laurie, a Paris dealer, offered it to King Edward, who wanted it badly, but Edward hesitated too long over the price. The King admired it so much, that he requested Laurie to let him see it after it was sold to Davis. It was shipped to Buckingham Palace, where it remained until the day before it was sent to America. Mr. Davis paid \$95,000 for the picture.

✿ A group of young English artists have made the interesting experiment of reviving tempera painting, and recently showed their pictures at the Carfax Galleries, London. Among

these masters of the yolk of the egg—or Society of Painters in Tempera, as they style themselves—are Adrian Stokes, Anning Bell, Sir Charles Holroyd, Roger Fry, and F. Cayley Robinson. Among the exhibits is



TEMPLE DOOR

Japanese Laquer and Carved Work

Courtesy of Yamanaka & Co., New York

an unfinished picture in this medium by the late G. F. Watts. Among the exhibitors Mr. Stokes is said to have adapted his open-air style to this revived material. By the use of color with a gluey vehicle the old Italian painters secured very luminous effects without breaking up the color. On this side the water, Sergeant Kendall has employed tempera very successfully, notably in two rounds of children, exhibited both in New York and in Philadelphia, and in a large picture of figures in an apple-orchard.

✱ A ceremony in honor of Shakespeare's birthday took place in Germany. At Weimar a marble statue of the poet was unveiled in the presence of the Grand Duke. The sculptor, Herr Otto Lessing, has represented Shakespeare sitting on a block of granite, holding in one hand a scroll and in the other a rose. The face wears a smile, which German critics say expresses the spirit of the author of the comedies rather than the loftier moods of the creator of Hamlet and Lear. At the foot of the statue lie a skull in cap and bells, encircled with a laurel wreath, a dagger, and a fool's bauble.

✱ M. Homolle, the director of the Louvre Museum, announced at the Congress of Architects that the excavations on the island of Delphos had already led to a brilliant result. The small temple called the Athenian treasure, constructed immediately after the battle of Marathon, and ornamented with trophies of the Persian arms, is now entirely unearthed intact. This in a great measure is due to the liberality of the archæologist, the Duke of Loubat, a member of the institute, who contributes \$10,000 yearly until the excavations are complete.

✱ The city of Ghent has just opened a new museum building. In moving the art treasures of the old building the workmen discovered in the attic an immense roll of canvas that proved to be the picture of a group of twenty-two persons, life size. Investigation led to the identification of the picture as one painted at the order of the Butchers' Guild of Ghent by Robert Van Audenaerde, in 1724. The men represented are the chief members of the guild. It is said to be an excellent example of this artist, whose chef-d'œuvre is the altar-piece in the Church of the Carthusians at Ghent.

✱ The Gavarni monument was recently unveiled in Paris. It is by the sculptor Puech and the architect Guillaume. The artists utilized the existing fountain as a portion of their monument. It is now fed by four masks, designed to represent types of Gavarni's characters. From the basin arises a column, about which disport themselves a Joseph Prudhomme, a Thomas Vireloque, and other familiar Gavarni figures; and from the top of the column Gavarni himself contemplates these diverting creations of his fancy.

